abroad, promotion of pepper in consumer packs with logo, promotion of Indian pepper products abroad, improvement in packaging and introduction of bar coding system, technology transfer and process upgradation, enhancing quality of pepper and pepper products to international standards, arranging buyer seller meets and participation in international fairs.

Industrial Sickness

1114. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made on the incidence of industrial sickness;

(b) if so, what is the position, sector-wise;

(c) what are the major reasons for industrial sickness; and

(d) the measures proposed for reducing industrial sickness?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). 2476 non-SSI units have been reported (as at the end of March, 1998) as sick/weak accounting for outstanding bank credit of Rs. 11825.25 crore. Sector-wise position of industrial sickness is as below:

Sector	% of units	% Outstanding Bank Credit
Private Sector	80.9	68.6
Public Sector	11.7	25.5
Joint/Co-operative Sector	7.4	5.9
TOTAL:	100.0	100.0

(c) According to the RBI report, several factors, both internal and external often working in combination, have been responsible for industrial sickness. These include shortcomings in project appraisal, project management deficiencies, non-availability of raw materials,

transport bottlenecks, adverse development in marketing, recession etc.

(d) The Government has taken a number of steps for reducing industrial sickness which, inter-alia, include guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, National Renewal Fund, National Equity Fund etc.

Industries Affected by Cyclone in Orissa

1115. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of large and medium industries affected by two cyclones swept over in Orissa during October last;

(b) the extent of losses sustained by each industry (both in public as well as private sector);

(c) the steps taken for the rehabilitation of those units; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (d) Recent cyclone in Orissa has damaged 44 salt works, covering an area of 2820 acres. Besides this, a quantity of 2300 tonnes of salt has been washed away.

With a view to rehabilitate the damage salt works, Salt Department has disbursed a sum of Rs. 19.314 lakh by way of ex-gratia relief to the affected salt manufacturers. This is in addition to several other labour welfare works sanctioned by the Salt Department in various salt factories.

Revival of Leather Industry

1116. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plans to revive leather industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?